

initiator stream that contains a free radical initiator; and, optionally, a chain transfer agent stream;

(b) polymerizing the streams in a reactor at a temperature within the range of about -20°C to about 150°C; and

(c) withdrawing a polymer stream from the reaction zone.

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REMARKS

1. Status of Claims

Claims 6 and 8 have been cancelled. Claim 1 has been amended. Claims 1-5, 7, and 9-15 remain for consideration.

2. Response to Rejections

The Examiner rejects claims 1-5 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (a) or (e) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 5,834,576 ("Nagano"). She also rejects claims 6, 7, 11, 14, and 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Nagano in combination with U.S. Pat. No. 5,310,813 ("Nagasawa").

As the Examiner correctly recognizes, Nagano does not anticipate claim 6 because the reference is silent about the use of chain transfer agent. The Examiner also correctly recognizes that claim 8 is not obvious over the combination of Nagano and Nagasawa. To overcome the rejections, Applicants have amended claim 1 by incorporating the limitations of claims 6 and 8. Thus, amended claim 1 is neither anticipated by Nagano nor made obvious by the combination of Nagano and Nagasawa. Claims 6 and 8 have been cancelled in this response. All remaining claims 2-5, 7, and 9-15 depend from claim 1, and thus they are also patentable over the references.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully ask the Examiner to withdraw the rejections and to allow claims 1-5, 7, and 9-15. Attached hereto is a marked-up version of changes made to the claims by the current response. The attached

page is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made." Applicants invite the Examiner to telephone his agent, Dr. Shao Guo, at (610) 359-6059 if a discussion of the application might be helpful.

Respectfully submitted,
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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the claims:

Claims 6 and 8 are cancelled.

Claim 1 has been amended as follows:

1. (Twice amended) A continuous process which comprises:
 - (a) forming a monomer stream that contains an acrylic monomer and a polyether macromonomer selected from the group consisting of poly(propylene glycol) acrylate, poly(propylene glycol) methacrylate, poly(ethylene glycol) acrylate, poly(ethylene glycol) methacrylate, acrylates and methacrylates of an oxyethylene and oxypropylene block and random copolymer, and mixtures thereof, and a chain transfer agent; and an initiator stream that contains a free radical initiator; and, optionally, a chain transfer agent stream;
 - (b) ~~polymerizing the streams in a reactor at a temperature within the range of about -20°C to about 150°C; and~~
 - (c) withdrawing a polymer stream from the reaction zone.